

Resource Number: 5BL7981  
Temporary Resource Number: 157508426007

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY  
**Cultural Resource Re-evaluation Form**

OAHP1405  
Rev. 9/98

1. Resource Number: 5BL7981 2. Temp. Resource Number: 157508426007

2A. Address: 729 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, CO 80027

Previous address prior to 1939: 216 LaFarge. Louisville addresses were changed in 1939.

LaFarge is sometimes spelled La Farge. Alternate addresses could be 729 La Farge or 216 La Farge.

3. Attachments

(check as many as apply)

☒ Photographs

☒ Site sketch map

☒ U.S.G.S. map photocopy

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. Official determination

(OAHP USE ONLY)

☐ Determined Eligible

☐ Determined Not Eligible

☐ Need Data

☐ Nominated

☐ Listed

☐ Contributing to N.R. District

☐ Not Contributing to N.R. Dist

5. Resource Name:

Historic Name: Taylor/Thirlaway/Chiolino House

Current Name: Gitkind House

6. Purpose of this current site visit

(check as many as apply)

☐ Site is within a current project area

☒ Resurvey

☒ Update of previous site form(s)

☐ Surface collection

☐ Testing to determine eligibility

☐ Excavation

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



Describe This property is within the Jefferson Place

Subdivision in Louisville, which is being evaluated for historic district potential in 2010 – 2011. This resurvey is part of the historic district evaluation process.

7. Previous Recordings: Architectural Inventory Form 2000, as part of "Old Town" Louisville Historical Building Survey by Carl McWilliams of Cultural Resource Historians.

8. **Changes or Additions to Previous Descriptions:**

Changes in property description have occurred since the 2000 survey. A wood privacy fence now surrounds the backyard. There is no longer a large fir tree in the front yard. The roofing is dark gray asphalt shingles. There is a dark gray aluminum fascia. Windows are painted white and brown. The main entrance door is painted red. There is no screen door on the front entrance. The porch floor is no longer painted red. The 2000 survey did not note that house eaves are flared.

The garage is now sided with horizontal cedar siding, installed in 2000. There are two small sheds in the backyard. The northern shed has light green composition siding and a gable roof with green asphalt roll roofing. The southern shed has vertical composition siding and a shallow gable roof.

**Construction History:**

Current owner Mr. Andy Gitkind provided the following information, which he has discovered while doing work on the house. The original main entrance door was on the south side of the front porch. The south wing is an early addition that dates from 1914, since Mr. Gitkind found 1914 newspapers in the ceiling of that wing. The shed-roofed wing on the front of the property at the north end is a later addition. There is wood tongue and

groove siding below the current aluminum siding. The roofing was replaced in 2010, at which time 2 layers of cedar roofing shingles were removed. A railroad rail serves as a structural beam supporting the first floor. It is visible in the basement.

Louisville building permit files contain permits from 1988 and 1989. The scopes of work were unspecified. The owner/contractor was listed as Mondragon.

Photographs dating from 1948 and the 1960 show that the street elevation was modified twice. In 1948, the elevation closest to the street featured one simple, central door and no windows. By the 1960s, the door had been moved to the south on that same elevation, with an adjacent bank of windows. By 2000 (probably in 1989) the entrance was moved to its current location in the southernmost bay, and its former opening converted to a window. The shed-roofed bay in the corner of the "L" plan was an open porch in 1948, enclosed in its current configuration by the 1960s. The house had asbestos siding in 1948 and in the 1960s. When extensive work was done in 1989, presumably the asbestos siding was removed and the current aluminum siding installed, but the original wood tongue and groove siding still exists below.

**Landscape or special setting description:** Jefferson Place Subdivision is a historic residential neighborhood adjacent to downtown Louisville. The subdivision is laid out on a standard urban grid of narrow, deep lots with rear alleys. Houses are built to a fairly consistent setback line along the streets with small front lawns, deep rear yards and mature landscaping. Small, carefully maintained single-family residences predominate. Most of the houses are wood framed, one or one and one-half stories in height, featuring white or light-colored horizontal wood or steel siding, gabled or hipped asphalt shingled roofs and front porches. While many of the houses have been modified over the years, most of the historic character-defining features have been preserved.

729 LaFarge is consistent with these patterns and blends well with the scale and character of the neighborhood.

9. Changes in Condition: None.

10. Changes to Location or Size Information: None.

11. Changes in Ownership: Current owner is Kristi L. Graham-Gitkind, 729 LaFarge, Louisville CO 80027

12. **Other Changes, Additions, or Observations:**

Further research has yielded more information about the ownership and use of the building.

The north half of Lot 10 (737 LaFarge 5BL7982) used to be part of 729 La Farge. It was conveyed by its owner, Thomas Taylor, to the owner of 737 LaFarge, by 1906. The actual date is unknown, since both parties had died by then.

This parcel was owned by William Hart for 17 years. Next, it was owned by the Taylor family from England for 45 years, followed by the Chiolino family, an Italian/French family, for 23 years.

Lots 8 and 9 were among the very first lots sold by developer Charles Welch in Jefferson Place, according to online County property records. In January 1881, William Hart acquired Lot 9, then acquired Lot 8 six months later. In a Rocky Mountain News article from 1883, Hart is referred to as being the manager of the Louisville Co-Operative Store, but nothing else about him could be located. The Co-Operative Store is believed to refer to the Miners Trading Co. building that was located at the northwest corner of Pine and Main. Property records show that Hart ended up owning a few different properties in Jefferson Place and may not have actually lived at this address.

The survey record for this property from 2000 concluded that the house was built in circa 1890, which makes sense because an L-shaped structure appears in the correct location on the 1893 Sanborn map (and on the 1900 and 1908 Sanborn maps, and the house also appears on the 1908 Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville). The County lists 1900 as the year of construction, which is strongly believed to be incorrect based on the evidence of the 1893 Sanborn map.

In 1898, the property was acquired by Thomas Taylor. According to the 1900 federal census, Thomas (born 1856) and his wife, Lizzie (born 1867) had eight children: George, Annie, Thomas Jr., Mary, Alice, Lela, Lizzie, and Robert. Based on the identities of the other families listed on the same page of the census record, the Taylor family was

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living at 729 La Farge at the time of the 1900 census. Evidence indicates that Thomas and Lizzie originally came from England.

There are some indications that Thomas and Lizzie Taylor passed away while there were still minor children in the family, as all records of the parents disappear in the early 1900s. In 1904, only the oldest son, George Taylor, is listed in the Louisville directory as an adult in this Taylor family living in Louisville.

Next, the 1910 federal census shows that Thomas and Lizzie Taylor's daughter May had married Thomas Thirlaway Jr. of Louisville's English Thirlaway family. Thomas Thirlaway was the new head of the household in this house, and Thomas and May were evidently responsible for taking care of three of May's youngest siblings, Lela (age 14), Lizzie (age 12), and Robert (age 11). May and Thomas had married when she was about 17, three years before. Thomas was a coal miner. Thomas and May Thirlaway are listed as still living at this address in 1916, 1918, 1920, and 1921. In 1923, Thomas was killed in a coal mining accident at the Centennial Mine in Louisville at the age of 39. In the 1923 directory, both May Thirlaway and her brother, George Taylor, are listed as residing here. In the 1926 directory, Thomas Thirlaway's brother, William, is listed as living at this address with his wife, Alberta. They had young children at the time. The residents in the 1930s could not be determined, but in 1943, James and Inez Gardner are listed as residents. They were apparently renters of the house. James was a loader at the Centennial Mine.

In 1943, according to online County property records, Taylor sons Robert and George Taylor conveyed the property at 729 La Farge out of the Taylor family, after 45 years. John and Edith Chiolino purchased the house and it became the home of their family, which included their children Maxine, Lois, and John Jr.

According to a Chiolino family history, John Chiolino's parents emigrated from Italy in 1889, while Edith was the daughter of a French family by the name of Merciez. John was born in 1905 and Edith in 1909. They married in Kansas in 1925 and came to Louisville in 1930 in search of work for John in the coal mines. Other members of the Chiolino and Merciez families ended up also settling in Louisville. In fact, Edith's brother, Alex Merciez, lived across the street from the Chiolinos with his family at 728 La Farge (5BL919). Also, Edith's mother, Marie Merciez, operated Forte's Store at 804 Walnut (5BL8029) in Jefferson Place following the operation by the Forte family; Edith's sister, Alice Merciez Soupley, lived with her husband in the cottage behind the store.

Edith Merciez Chiolino, being of French heritage, prepared French foods including soup made with green vegetables such as leeks, cabbage, and spinach from their garden cooked with white beans and pork bones. The family raised chickens and rabbits.

The Chiolino family history states:

In 1938, John was injured when a cave-in at the Monarch mine crushed his pelvis. He was hospitalized for several weeks and was never expected to walk again. The family survived on Workmens Comp on \$59 a month while Edith worked around town doing laundry, ironing and cleaning. Finally John was able to walk with crutches, then a cane and wore a stiff back brace the rest of his life. He got a job with the town of Louisville driving a truck, cleaning ash pits and cleaning streets. During the war he helped with paper drives with the church and Boy Scouts and volunteered where ever he could help. When he finally regained his strength, he got a job at Steinbaugh Lumber and worked there until his retirement in 1969. John and Edith bought their first house in Louisville at 729 LaFarge in 1942 for \$500 cash. They were hard-working, honest and proud people, never owned a credit card and had no debts.

John passed away in 1981 at the age of 81 and Edith in 2004 at the age of 95. Son John Chiolino Jr. passed away in 2008. Daughters Lois Chiolino Tesone and Maxine Chiolino McHugh are current Louisville residents.

The only alternate address that was found for this house is 216 La Farge.

### **Sources of Information**

Boulder County "Real Estate Appraisal Card – Urban Master," on file at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History in Boulder, Colorado.

Boulder County Clerk & Recorder's Office and Assessor's Office public records, accessed through

<http://recorder.bouldercounty.org>.

Directories of Louisville residents and businesses on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

Census records and other records accessed through [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

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Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville, Colorado, 1909  
Sanborn Insurance Maps for Louisville, Colorado, 1893, 1900, and 1908  
Louisville building permit files

Louisville, Colorado cemetery records, accessed at <http://files.usgwarchives.org/co/boulder/cemeteries/louisville.txt>  
Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum, including a reference to a Rocky Mountain News article dated January 26, 1883, regarding Louisville's William Hart being manager of the Louisville Co-Operative Store; and a written "Chiolino Family History" donated to the Louisville Historical Museum by Lois Chiolino Tesone on April 23, 2009.

Interview of Lois Chiolino Tesone conducted by Museum Coordinator Bridget Bacon, April 23, 2009.

Interview of Mr. Andy Gitkind conducted by Kathy Lingo, Avenue L Architects, November 19, 2010

13. National Register Eligibility Assessment:

Eligible \_\_\_\_ Not eligible  X  Need data \_\_\_\_

Explain: While the property has sufficient integrity and significance to be a local landmark, it lacks sufficient integrity and significance to be individually eligible to the National Register. It has integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. Integrity of design is lost due to the prominent shed-roofed addition on the front of the house, the relocation of the original front entry, and the alteration of several window openings. An earlier addition on the front of the house dates from the period of significance and does not compromise integrity of design. Integrity of materials is lost due to replacement siding. However, the property is still able to visually convey its history to a viewer sufficiently for it to be a contributing resource in a historic district.

The property is significant for its association with residential development in Louisville in the late 1800s and early 1900s and for its association with European immigrants employed in the local mining industry.

13A. Colorado State Register: Not Eligible

13B. Louisville Local Landmark: Eligible. The property is eligible as a Louisville local landmark for its long association with European immigrant coal-mining families.

13C. Historic District Potential: Jefferson Place is eligible as a State Register and local historic district. There is potential for a National Register historic district. This property is non-contributing.

Discuss: This building is being recorded as part of a 2010-2011 intensive-level historical and architectural survey of Jefferson Place, Louisville's first residential subdivision, platted in 1880. The purpose of the survey is to determine if there is potential for National Register, State Register or local historic districts. Jefferson Place is eligible as a State Register historic district under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage, European, for its association with European immigrants who first lived here and whose descendants continued to live here for over fifty years. The period of significance for the State Register historic district is 1881 – 1980. Jefferson Place is potentially eligible as a National Register historic district under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage, European. However it needs data to determine dates of some modifications, and to more definitely establish the significant impacts of various European ethnic groups on the local culture of Louisville. The period of significance of a National Register district is 1881 – 1963. Jefferson Place is eligible as a local Louisville historic district under local Criterion B, Social, as it exemplifies the cultural and social heritage of the community.

European immigrant families flocked to Colorado coal mining communities, including Louisville, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in search of economic opportunities they could not find in their own countries. Louisville's Welch Coal Mine, along with other mines in the area, recruited skilled workers from western Europe. In the early years before 1900, most of the miners who lived in Jefferson Place came from English-speaking countries.

Immigrants from England brought a strong tradition and expertise in coal mining. The English are widely credited with developing the techniques of coal mining that were used locally, and they taught these techniques to other miners. The British mining culture was instilled in the early Colorado coal mines. English immigrants also brought expertise in other necessary skills such as blacksmithing and chain forging.

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Later Jefferson Place residents arrived from Italy, France, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia, among other places. The Italians eventually became the largest single ethnic group in Jefferson Place and in Louisville as a whole. About one-third of the houses in Jefferson Place were owned and occupied by Italian immigrants. Italian immigrants left their mark on Louisville in the food and beverage industries. To the present day, downtown Louisville is known throughout the Front Range for its tradition of Italian restaurants. The impacts of the heritage and customs of the other European ethnic groups could be significant, but are not well documented and need further investigation.

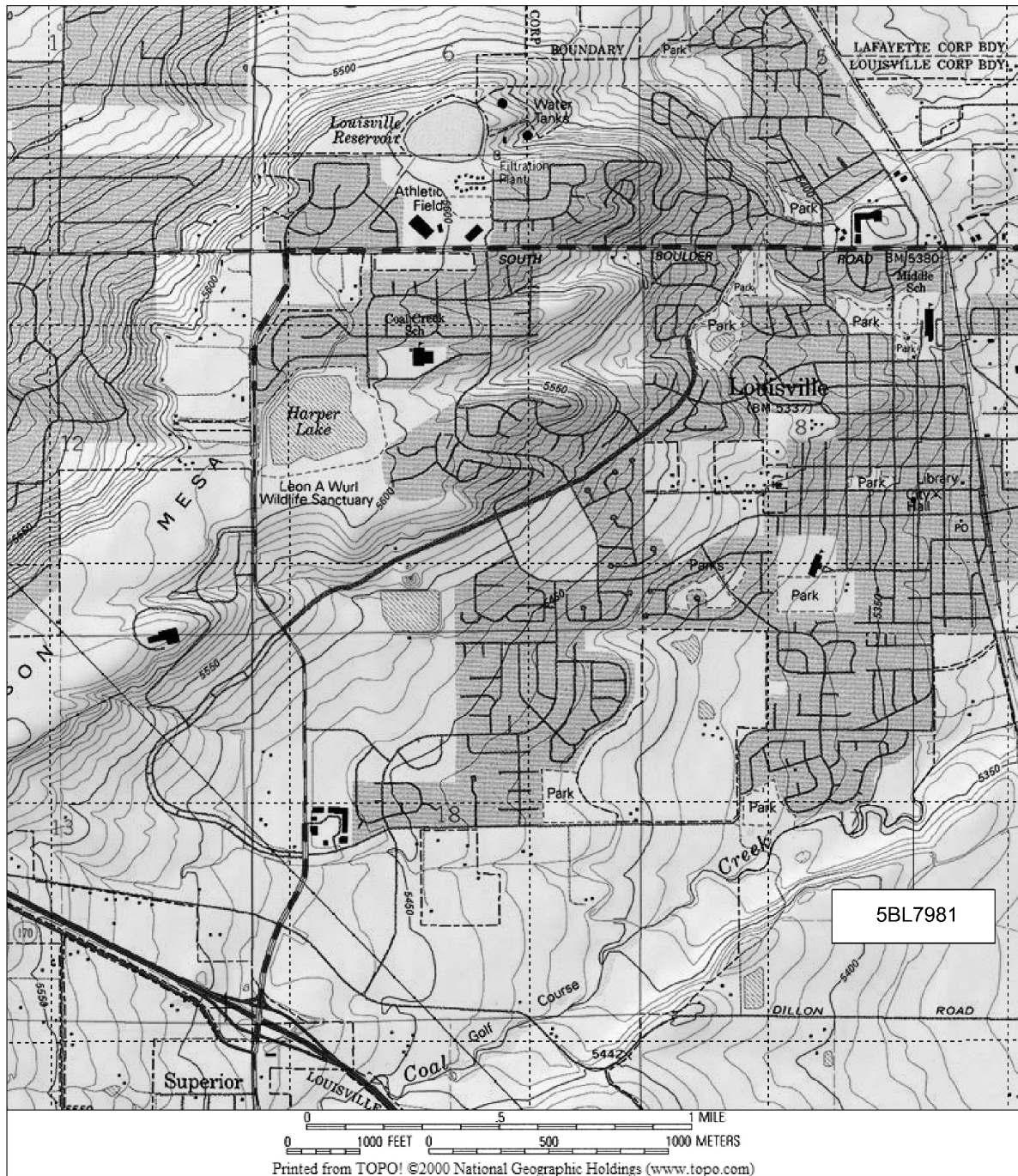
14. Management Recommendations: The property is not eligible to the National or State Registers of Historic Places. It is worthy of nomination as a local landmark.
15. Photograph Types and Numbers: 5BL7981\_729LaFarge\_01 through 5BL7981\_04
16. Artifact and Field Documentation Storage Location: Electronic files of forms with embedded photos and maps at Colorado Historical Society. Electronic files of forms, and electronic files of photographs at City of Louisville, Colorado, Planning Department.
17. Report Title: Historical and Architectural Survey of Jefferson Place Subdivision, Louisville, Colorado
18. Recorder(s): Kathy and Leonard Lingo, and Bridget Bacon, City of Louisville 19. Date(s): 2013
20. Recorder Affiliation: Avenue L Architects, 3457 Ringsby Court Suite 317, Denver CO 80216 (303) 290-9930

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203  
303-866-3395

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Architectural Inventory Form  
USGS Location Map



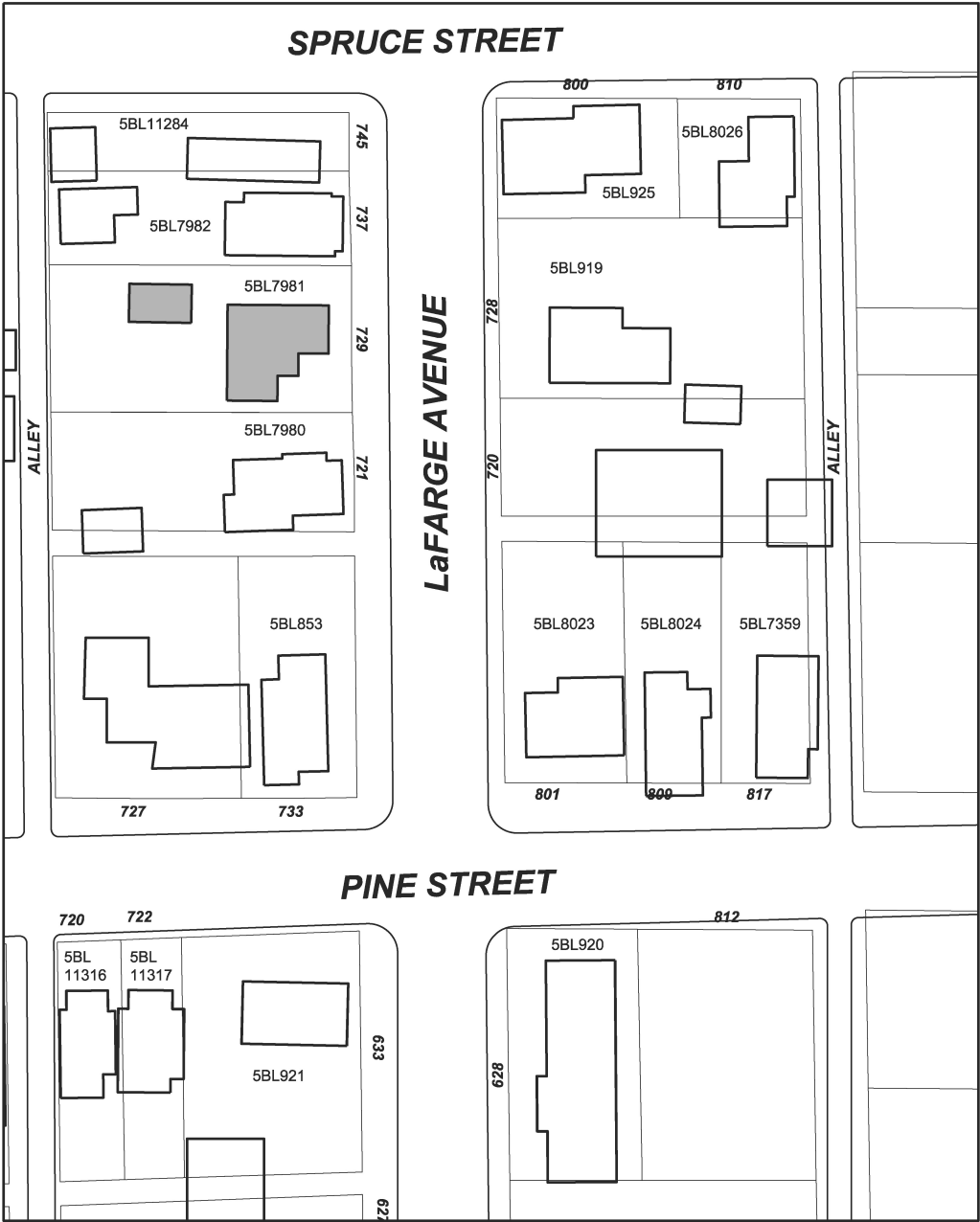
729 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: Extract of Louisville, Colorado  
USGS map, 1994.



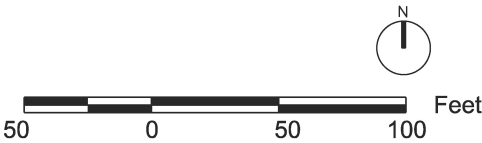
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Architectural Inventory Form  
Site Location Map



729 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: City of Louisville, Colorado  
GIS Files.



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5BL7981\_01 Southeast



5BL7981\_02 Northeast

Resource Number: 5BL7981  
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5BL7981\_03 West



5BL7981\_04 Sheds

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1948 photo from Boulder County Assessor Card



C. 1960s photo, Louisville Historical Museum 2008.008.048